

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-14 remain pending in the application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication in numbered paragraph 5, page 4 of the Office Action, that claims 6, 7, 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter; and the Examiner's indication in numbered paragraph 6 of the Office Action that claim 14 is allowed.

In numbered paragraph 4, page 2 of the Office Action, independent claim 1, along with various dependent claims, is rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,125,957 (Kauffmann et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has disclosed a lifting device, such as the exemplary lifting device 29 of the Applicant's Fig. 4, which can move the raising frame 21 upward and forward. As exemplified in Fig. 3, a raising wheel chair can include a wheel frame; a raising frame with a seat, a backrest and a footrest; and a lifting device for adjusting a height level of the raising frame both in a sitting and in a standing position. The combination of raising frame and lifting device provides for four possible end positions, namely:

- Sitting at a low level (Fig. 1);
- Sitting at a high level (Fig. 2);
- Standing at a low level; and
- Standing at a high level (Fig. 3; also, dotted lines shown in Fig. 4).

(Various intermediate positions are possible). Therefore, on a lifting operation of the lifting device, a patient in a raising wheel chair, whether sitting or standing, can

be moved from a low level both upward and forward to a high level. Vice-versa, the patient may also be moved from high level both downward and backward to a low level.

Further, when a patient is in a sitting position, he may additionally operate the raising frame to move to a standing position (Fig. 3). On the other hand, when the patient is in a standing position, he may operate the raising frame to move into a sitting position (Fig. 2).

The foregoing features are broadly encompassed by claim 1, which recites, among other features, a raising wheel chair comprising: a wheel frame; a raising frame with a seat, a backrest and a footrest; and a lifting device for adjusting a height level of the raising frame both in a sitting and in a standing position, wherein the lifting device has a forward inclination from bottom to top, so that on a lifting operation the raising frame is moved both upward and forward.

The Kauffmann patent discloses a motorized wheelchair capable of lifting a sitting person into a standing position (abstract). Figs. 2 of the Kauffmann patent shows a seat frame 40 having a seat plate and a pelvic support 43, a backrest frame 60 and channels 24 serving as a foot rest. As disclosed in the Kauffmann patent, the patient is held by belts 64, 66 and 69 against a backrest 60. As shown in Fig. 1, the patient's feet rest on the channels 24, which remain fixed at a predetermined distance from the ground floor. With the patient shown standing in Fig. 1, the Kauffmann patent does not disclose a means which could permit the standing patient to move higher up. The Kauffmann patent does not teach or suggest a raising wheel chair having, among other features, a lifting device for adjusting a height level of the

raising frame both in a sitting and in a standing position, wherein the lifting device has a forward inclination from bottom to top, so that on a lifting operation the raising frame is moved both upward and forward, as recited in claim 1.

Applicant's claim 1 is allowable over the Kauffmann patent. The remaining dependent claims recite additional advantageous features which further distinguish over the documents relied upon by the Examiner. As such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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